

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for dynamically developing a user interface in an existing software application, comprising:
 - invoking a user interface developer component during the execution of the software application;
 - identifying one or more fields to include in the user interface;
 - associating a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;
 - saving the identified one or more fields and associated field types in a user interface definition file; and
 - generating the user interface based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - providing one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and
 - saving the one or more values in the user interface definition file.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the generating includes parsing the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the generating further includes transforming the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.
6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

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7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the generating further includes displaying the user interface based on the one or more objects.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

9. A software application operable on a computer system having a user interface developer component for dynamically developing a user interface for the software application, the software application configured to:

invoke the user interface developer component during the execution of the software application;

identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;

associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

save the identified one or more fields and associated field types in a user interface definition file; and

generate the user interface based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

10. A software application according to claim 9, further configured to:
provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and

save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

11. A software application according to claim 9, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

12. A software application according to claim 9, further configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

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13. A software application according to claim 12, further configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

14. A software application according to claim 13, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

15. A software application according to claim 13, further configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

16. A software application according to claim 9, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

17. A computer system for dynamically developing a user interface for a software application, comprising:

- a processor; and

- a memory, coupled to the processor, comprising a plurality of instructions executed by the processor, the plurality of instructions configured to:

 - invoke a user interface developer component during the execution of the software application;

 - identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;

 - associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

 - save the identified one or more fields and associated field types in a user interface definition file; and

 - generate the user interface based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

18. A computer system according to claim 17, the memory further comprising instructions configured to:

- provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and

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save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

19. A computer system according to claim 17, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

20. A computer system according to claim 17, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

21. A computer system according to claim 20, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

22. A computer system according to claim 21, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

23. A computer system according to claim 21, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

24. A computer system according to claim 17, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

25. A computer readable medium on a computer system having a user interface developer component for dynamically developing a user interface in a software application, the computer readable medium configured to:

invoke the user interface developer component during the execution of the software application;

identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;

associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

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save the identified one or more fields and associated field types in a user interface definition file; and

generate the user interface based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

26. A computer readable medium according to claim 25, further configured to: provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

27. A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

28. A computer readable medium according to claim 25, further configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

29. A computer readable medium according to claim 28, further configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

30. A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

31. A computer readable medium according to claim 29, further configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

32. A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

33. A system for dynamically developing a user interface in an existing software application, comprising:

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means for invoking a user interface developer component during the execution of the software application;

means for identifying one or more fields to include in the user interface;

means for associating a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

means for saving the identified one or more fields and associated field types in a user interface definition file; and

means for generating the user interface based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

34. A system according to claim 33, further comprising:

means for providing one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and

means for saving the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

35. A system according to claim 33, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

36. A system according to claim 33, wherein the means for generating includes means for parsing the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

37. A system according to claim 36, wherein the means for generating further includes means for transforming the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

38. A system according to claim 37, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

39. A system according to claim 37, wherein the means for generating further includes means for displaying the user interface based on the one or more objects.

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40. A system according to claim 33, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

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